

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY®

September 20, 2010

Dear Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of more than 1.5 million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I urge you to reconsider your plans to push for higher energy taxes in a lame duck session of Congress. Media reports abound that you are planning to push a national energy tax—in the form of cap-and-trade—or a renewable energy standard, which would dramatically increase the cost of electricity. Both of these policies would be damaging for the economic recovery and cost American jobs. I urge you to remove these items from the lame duck agenda.

I am proud to join Congressman Doug Lamborn in his opposition to these harmful energy policies in the lame duck. Our opposition to these tactics is both substantive and procedural.

Cap-and-trade has been thoroughly exposed for the energy tax that it is; and the American people have soundly rejected the policy. Transferring as much as a trillion dollars from the private to public sector using the guise of global warming to exploit politically vulnerable industries is unconscionable. We know from the failed cap-and-trade tax experiment in Europe that despite central planners' assurances that end users will not pay higher rates, invariably consumers end up facing the brunt of this tax. What's more, the program fails to meaningfully affect carbon dioxide emissions. Cap-and-trade is clearly more about transferring control of the energy sector to Washington than it is about solving environmental issues.

Additionally, although Washington may think the public does not care about process, nothing could be further from the truth. As we painfully witnessed during the health care debate, Congress's penchant for using every procedural trick possible to foist unpopular laws on the people knows no bounds. The lame duck session is an inappropriate vehicle for major policy changes because the voters will have already expressed their will that new people represent their interests. In 2010 this expression for new leadership will be especially pronounced. Dozens of representatives and senators will be replaced and control of the bodies may even switch political parties. It is procedurally inappropriate for these soon-to-be ex-members to radically change the path of America's future by increasing energy taxes and hobbling our recovery.

Sincerely,



James Valvo
Director of Government Affairs
Americans for Prosperity

Americans for Prosperity® (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and scope of government is the best safeguard to ensuring individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens in support of restraining state and federal government growth, and returning government to its constitutional limits. AFP has more than 1.5 million members in all 50 states, including 30 chapter and affiliate states. More than 65,000 Americans in all 50 states have made a financial investment in AFP or AFP Foundation. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org

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